



CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED

MEMBERS

Frederick Krampits, Chairman
Chuck Swider, Vice-Chairman
Frank Laflamme
Ron Belair
Jean Croteau

MINUTES
October 7, 2010

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Thursday, October 8, 2010 at 6:30 PM at City Hall, Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex.

Members Present Croteau, Swider, Laflamme,

Members Absent Krampits, Belair

Also Present Councilor Zygarowski, Councilor Moreau, Councilor Brunetti, Steve Fredrick (City Engineer), Carl Dietz (Community Development Director), Frank Czepiel, Commission for Disabled, Gus Varandas, Ricky Varandas (Varandas & Sons Construction)

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

ITEM #1

Discussion of ongoing construction of sidewalks in downtown Chicopee.

General discussion - sidewalk infill - 2' wide brick stamped area to begin 10-08-2010 and weather permitting completed by 8-15-2010. Striping crosswalks etc. to happen tonight between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. October 8, 2010. No parking sign to be removed 4:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Councilor Croteau stated that we had some complaints regarding downtown. Some things were resolved and we will address the other concerns this evening.

Carl Dietz stated that what's going there is a brick stamped concrete colored strip. My understanding is that Varandas Construction will start pouring that tomorrow and it should be done no later than the end of next week weather permitting.

Steve Fredericks stated that if there's no negative input from the public in terms of them working Monday. There's not a lot of traffic in downtown Chicopee to preclude them from working.

Councilor Brunetti questioned so deciding the color of the sidewalks did not delay the work?

Steve Fredericks stated that I think the color of the sidewalk has been decided for a little while now. Berkshire Design group is the designer and the ones that are approving all the money. Carl and the designer had some issues with some of the panels that were poured, whether they were done or not. They asked me and my staff to go and review the ones they thought were not done correctly so I went out there and found some panels that needed to be done over and some that we thought were acceptable. They had to come and cut those panels out and re-pour them.

Don Lavalley, 66 Ward Street stated that; Chuck we need to thank you and the D.P.W., since our first meeting we had trouble with the parking signs, you guys paid overtime to get people to

come out there and take the signs down then put them back up so we could do business and I appreciate that. The last three weeks have been much better.

Councilor LaFlamme questioned to Carl Dietz, You held off on the sidewalks so you could do it all at one time to make sure the color is going to be the same on this street verses the next street?

Carl Dietz answered right.

Frank Cziepiel questioned that stamping procedure, how deep is that going to be?

Ricky Varandas answered we will make sure not to go too deep and have the impression. That is something we can control.

Cory Greer, 10 Center Street stated there's a step where the open window used to be it's just very misleading. I even offered to pay to put a step in there because someone is going to fall. I've got plans for this building down the road and some of these entry ways that were level with the sidewalk that a wheelchair could get through it now is a step. What I had is gone, now I have two entrances and two store fronts that are not wheelchair accessible.

Steve Fredericks stated that this was not a full reconstruction, if we wanted to make everyone's business handicap accessible we would have to rip up the entire downtown and start again and that's not what this project was about. I didn't design this project Berkshire Design did, that design was done over the winter time.

Councilor Brunetti question to Carl Dietz do you think Berkshire Design did a thorough job on this with their design?

Carl Dietz answered I think Berkshire Design designed it the way we discussed designing it back in December. Their marching orders were to do the best that you can.

Councilor LaFlamme stated I think the majority of the gripe is that no information was given to these folks.

Councilor Swider stated a year and a half ago the sidewalks were in disarray, the concrete was buckling, the iron grates around the trees were lifting up and that was dangerous and the bricks were popping. At no time did I know that businesses were going to be disrupted. The businesses were not told of the factors and what disruptions they would have and that was wrong.

Steve Fredericks stated that I knew this project was very technical, that's why we hired Berkshire Design.

Councilor Croteau stated to Steve Fredericks you've been more than accommodating.

Councilor Moreau questioned to Carl Dietz you said the project should be done by the end of October. It should be more into November that you should be done completely, that includes the work around the City Hall area which should take you a little longer.

Carl Dietz answered yes you're probably right, more like the middle of November.

ITEM #2

Minutes - September 9, 2010

Motion to accept - motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.